

Heartland Warrior

Vol. 7, No. 7

July 2002

Serving the men and women of the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom ARB, Ind.



Street bowling

Staff Sgt. Ed Bazan, 434th Aerial Port Flight, follows through as he tries to pick up a spare during 'street bowling' as part of Mission Fitness 2002. The event, sponsored by the fitness center, allowed military and civilian members an opportunity to compete and participate in a variety of activities.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Spreading the word

Volunteers tout Grissom during Indiana Black Expo

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

"It's like a real life internet," said Master Sgt. Sherry Burks, "only the wealth of information is only a few feet away."

That real life internet is the Indiana Black Expo and Grissom is www.there.com.

Volunteers and recruiters alike will set up shop at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis July 15-21 to participate in IBE's Annual Summer Celebration.

"We'll be talking to people and letting them know what opportunities are available at Grissom for military and civilian members," Burks said. "We want to familiarize visitors with the Air Force Reserve."

Last year that familiarization paid off directly for the 434th ARW, as Airman Kimberly Dawson, 434th Logistics Support Squadron, garnered information last year and is now a member of the unit volunteering to inform others this year.

"IBE has a wealth of information for **ALL** people – on just about any subject," Burks said. "From information, to commercialism, history and entertainment, IBE really has it all."

Activities include business workshops, an ecumenical service, an employment opportunity fair, the largest black & minority health fair, various receptions and concerts, over 1,000 consumer exhibits and a host of local and national celebrities who flock to Indianapolis to join in the celebration.

Mark your calendars now

Family Day, Military Ball highlight upcoming events

By Brig. Gen. Peter Sullivan

434th Air Refueling Wing commander

I hope all of you are planning on attending this year's Family Day on Aug. 10.

Please make every effort to bring your loved ones to this event that begins at 9 a.m. at the Grissom Club with our Information Fair.

We are also planning a Grissom ARB, all services, Military Ball at 6 p.m. Oct 5 at the Johanning Civic Center in northern Kokomo.

Maj. Gen. John Bathie, Air Force Reserve Command vice command, and past 434th ARW commander, has accepted an invitation to attend and we hope to have our outgoing Congressman Steve Buyer will attend as a special guest as well.

We will have wonderful music, as three separate elements of the Air Force Reserve Command band will provide entertainment, including the world traveling Piper Band. See you there!



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Brig. Gen. Peter Sullivan, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, readies himself to catch a water balloon during a Mission Fitness 2002 competition. Sullivan, and his partner Tammy Schlarf of the civilian personnel office, remained dry and won the competition.

Involvement in community activities helps Grissom

Make an impression

By Lt. Col. Gary Lockard

Public Affair staff

The 434th Air Refueling Wing and the local civilian communities are involved in various special events that benefit both Grissom ARB and the local area.

While each of these special events are unique, 434th ARW participation helps to educate others on the KC-135 mission, supports recruiting initiatives, and demonstrates that Grissom, and its people, are a vital part of the local community.

Activities recently completed, or that are happening in the next few months, include Indiana Black Expo, Peru Circus Festival, Grissom ARB Multi-Cultural Banquet, Howard County Vietnam Veterans Reunion, Haynes Apperson Festival, Pioneer Days, Walkerton 1800 Rendezvous, and the Harvest Moon Festival.

One of the most emotional events promises to be the "Not Forgotten" program in which family members of those killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks travel to nearby Peru for a four-day visit in conjunction with the city's annual Circus Festival.

Included in the itinerary is a visit to Grissom for an unveiling of the "Let's Roll" KC-135 nose art, base tour, and special reception with local community leaders and elected officials.

While each of the events are different, what adds to their success is the desire of the sponsors to have Grissom be a part of the events, and the willingness of unit personnel to become involved.

Heartland

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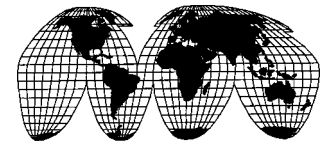
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World Wide Web

Air Force Reserve Home Page

<http://www.afrc.af.mil>

Grissom Home Page

<http://www.afrc.af.mil/434arw/>



Photo by Master Sgt. William Blair

Sentinels

From left, Airman 1st Class Deborah Melton, 434th Aircraft Generation Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Gerald Schoenberger, 434th Maintenance Squadron; and Staff Sgt. Michael Young, 434th AGS, stand guard over C-141s during a recent exercise and deployment to Volk Field, Wisc. The 434th ARW teamed up with 445th Airlift Wing at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio for a training exercise at the Combat Readiness Training Center.

Information fair to kick off Family Day

Spouses get opportunity to learn about mission, entitlements

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Families of Grissom Reservists will have an opportunity to learn about the wing, its mission and benefits and opportunities available to them during the annual Family Appreciation Day on Aug. 10.

The day will kick off with an information fair hosted by the Family Readiness office. During the information fair, attendees will have an opportunity to learn more about their benefits and entitlements -- and to learn points of contacts in case any need may arise.

The idea for a family day is to bring

families of Grissom reservists together to give them an inside look at the wing and the Air Force Reserve.

In the afternoon, a picnic with food and beverages is planned to give families an opportunity to enjoy themselves and for the base to say thanks for their support.

Events include softball, euchre, and a golf tournament, along with games for the children.

A dunk tank and DJ are also on tap for the afternoon along with a car show.

Families can also use this as an opportunity meet the people their loved one works with at the base -- and to see the mission that they support.

"Getting families involved with the Grissom team helps them to understand why, one weekend a month and however many weeks a year, we put on this uniform and do our mission," said 1st Lt. Greg Rusk, 434th Support Group executive officer.

"Because many of us are activated or are pulling additional days to support our mission, that puts a strain on our families that wasn't there before and Family Day is a way to say "Thanks!" to the people who matter the most," he said.

More information on the Family Day will be published in the next issue of the *Heartland Warrior*.

Perfect match

Reserve lets professor practice what he teaches

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

For Henry Young, it is a marriage made in Heaven – and he ought to know.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Henry Young is the senior chaplain at Grissom and the marriage he's referring to is his military and civilian jobs.



Young

Young was recently installed as the first Neal F. and Ila. A. Fisher Chair in Theology at the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary where he is a professor of systematic theology.

He has been a guest lecturer at over 40 colleges, universities and seminaries, and has published seven books and 20 articles for professional journals.

Militarily, Young has been donning the uniform for more than 24 years – the last 14 years at Grissom.

“My two careers really reinforce each other,” Young said, “in every dimension.”

As a professor, Young tutors and teaches those studying theology. At Grissom he gets to practice what he teaches...or preaches.

Managing and ministering to Reservists of many faiths keeps him connected with the grass roots level of the ministry.

Chaplain Young said he encourages people to match their careers like he has done.

“I think it helps keep you from getting disconnected,” he said.

While Young has gone beyond the point where he could retire, he's making no plans as of yet.

“This unit is full of people displaying outstanding qualities,” he said...“and that keeps me coming back.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Refreshing!

Water sloshes from a cooler as Master Sgt. Wayne Raby, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron, mixes a flavored drink for other members of his unit. The 434th CES did their annual bivouac during the June unit training assembly, setting up tents and training on the west side of the base.



Photo by Staff Sgt. A. C. Bennett

Master Sgt. Steven Douglas, customer service technician, right, discusses Thrift Savings Plan options with Master Sgt. Teresa Williams, of the 434th Mission Support Squadron.

TSP lets Reservists save for the future

By Staff Sgt. A. C. Bennett
Public Affairs staff

Most financial experts will agree, it is never too late to start saving for the future.

For Reservists, the Thrift Savings Plan may be one opportunity to do just that.

According to Tech. Sgt. Christopher Crosier, of the 434th Mission Support Squadron, "It's a comparatively competitive way to save and you can choose your level of risk."

The Thrift Savings Plan is set up essentially like a 401K program according to Crosier. "It's a 401K retirement program for military members. It's tax deferred and you can contribute up to 7% of your base pay. That percentage increases one percent each year through 2006. Starting 2007 the cap will be lifted and you can contribute what you want up to the IRS limit."

In addition to the percentage of contribution, you also control the level of risk. With five different areas of

investment the plan allows you flexibility and security based upon your needs. Those five areas of contribution include:

- Government Securities Investments (G) Fund
- Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund
- Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund
- Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund
- International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund

Sign up for TSP is available only during open season, which is now through July 31.

Even though you cannot actively draw from the account until you reach 60, members can borrow against their account in extreme cases.

In addition to the Thrift Savings Plan, the Mission Support Squadron staff can help with Service Members Group Life Insurance.

With SGLI, a member can choose to be covered up to \$250,000. Their spouse can be covered up to \$100,000

or up to the service member's level of coverage (whichever is least).

This coverage is intrinsically tied to the accuracy of your DEERS information, said Master Sgt. Steven Douglas, of the military personnel flight.

"It is imperative that when you sign up for SGLI, your DEERS information is accurate," he said. "Especially any change in marital status. If there's been a change in marital status and a DEERS change isn't made, you could be paying for coverage for an ex-spouse, or your new spouse might not have the coverage you think she or he has."

Premiums for spouses are based upon the person's age and children are automatically covered at \$10,000, provided they are entered into the DEERS system.

Members are invited to stop in at Bldg 596 in the Customer Service area anytime during the week and even during the main and alternate UTA's to check on the status of their coverage, or to make changes during the open season.

Ready..set Walk!

Members of the 434th Air Refueling Wing take off as part of the annual fitness test. The majority of Reservists completed the annual three-mile walk during the June unit training assembly. Walks for those activated are currently scheduled on Tuesday mornings at 8 a.m.



Photo by Lt. Col. Gary Lockard

Commissary sale

The Ft. Benjamin Harrison Commissary Truck Load Sale scheduled for August 10 has been postponed until a later date—possibly October to December time frame.

More information will be released as it becomes available.

Multi-Cultural banquet

The 434th ARW will hold its annual multi-cultural banquet Sept. 7 as part of the main unit training assembly in September at the Grissom Club.

This year's banquet will honor Asian-Pacific Americans and is open to all members of the 434th ARW and the local civilian community. Tickets for the event will be available from unit first sergeants.

More than 150 people attended last year's banquet that honored Native Americans.

For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Daro Johnson at Ext. 2366

Employer forms

Unit members who want to nominate their civilian bosses for the employer orientation flight or employer awards program can download the necessary forms directly from the LAN. The

forms are located at: fscgtc09/wing grp/public affairs/forms.

Unit members wanting to nominate their employers for these vital programs should simply download the forms, fill in the required information, and send the completed forms to the 434th ARW Public Affairs Office in Bldg 596, or fax them to Ext. 9033.

For more information, call Ext. 3348.

Strike up the band

The Air Force Reserve Command Band will visit Grissom Oct. 2-7 as part of its "Band Strike Package" program.

Designed to support recruiting and community outreach activities, the BSP includes six individual bands that will stage musical performances in the local civilian communities.

Unit members are needed to serve as escorts for the bands when they travel to their various performances. Individuals interested in serving as escorts should contact PA at Ext. 3348.

Classes Available

The Performance Planning Office has scheduled a number of classes during the upcoming months.

The classes and dates are:

- Self-Esteem and Peak Performance, June 19-20;
- Powerful Listening, July 10-11;
- Self Discipline and Emotional Control, Aug 7-8;
- How to Deal with Difficult People, Aug. 21-22;
- Professional Supervision Skills, Sept. 11-12;
- Stress Management for Professionals, Sept. 25-26;
- Business Writing Skills, Oct. 9-10;
- Dealing with Conflict and Confrontation, Oct. 21-23;
- How to Overcome Negativity in the Workplace, Nov. 4-6; and
- Interpersonal Communication Skills, Nov. 18-21.

For more info on the classes, contact the Performance Planning Office at Ext. 2290.

Recruiters move

The recruiting office has moved to a new location in the Grissom Aeroplex.

The recruiting office is now located at 1200 Kitty Hawk (Bldg. 2). The new location provides potential recruits with easier access to the recruiting staff. The main telephone number remains 688-2020.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Reflections

A Navy Blue Angel aircraft is reflected in the glasses of Staff Sgt. Rena Beckham, 74th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator as she provides refueling support. The 434th Air Refueling Wing recently refueled the famous blue and yellow F-18s of the Navy's aerial demonstration team in the skies over Mississippi and Arkansas.

434th Air Refueling Wing
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